



# The Botanist's Daughter

*Kayte Nunn*

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## **The Botanist's Daughter** Kayte Nunn

Discovery. Desire. Deception. A wondrously imagined tale of two female botanists, separated by more than a century, in a race to discover a life-saving flower . . .

In Victorian England, headstrong adventuress Elizabeth takes up her late father's quest for a rare, miraculous plant. She faces a perilous sea voyage, unforeseen dangers and treachery that threatens her entire family.

In present-day Australia, Anna finds a mysterious metal box containing a sketchbook of dazzling watercolours, a photograph inscribed 'Spring 1886' and a small bag of seeds. It sets her on a path far from her safe, carefully ordered life, and on a journey that will force her to face her own demons.

In this spellbinding botanical odyssey of discovery, desire and deception, Kayte Nunn has so exquisitely researched nineteenth-century Cornwall and Chile you can almost smell the fragrance of the flowers, the touch of the flora on your fingertips . . .

## **The Botanist's Daughter Details**

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Author : Kayte Nunn

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# From Reader Review *The Botanist's Daughter* for online ebook

## Sally Piper says

Rich with botanical references and captures the win-all mentality of some past explorers to make the first discoveries.

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## Yolanda Sfetsos says

There was something about this blurb that grabbed my attention as soon as I read it. So when Hachette Australia sent me a copy, I got started right away.

Elizabeth lives in Cornwall with her botanist father. Like him, she's very interested in plants and spends a lot of her time drawing and painting them. So when on his deathbed, her father leaves her with a secret mission to locate a botanical wonder, she promises to fulfill it.

To do that, Elizabeth will travel to South America and encounter some of the happiest times of her life. As well as the most dangerous.

Anna recently inherited her grandmother's house, and while renovations are being done the workmen discover a box and sketchbook hidden behind a bookshelf. When she starts delving into the contents, she finds herself enthralled, and wants to solve the mystery of why and who these items belonged to.

To do that, Anna will travel to England and will encounter a lot more than she bargained for...

This is such a great book! As soon as I started, both Anna's and Elizabeth's voices hooked me in. And when I realised they were each headed into their own personal quests, I couldn't stop reading.

Told in the alternating POVs of Elizabeth and Anna, their stories weave around each other perfectly. They might be completely different women living during completely different times, but their sense of adventure is the same.

Elizabeth wants to desperately fulfill the promise she made to her dying father, and goes to great lengths to do it. She's strong, determined, and I loved how she found so many unexpected things during her travels.

Anna is a very lonely woman. She has a gardening business and keeps busy, but a dark event from her past keeps her from pursuing happiness. She's loyal, hardworking and doesn't give herself the chance she deserves. Until a family mystery takes over her every waking moment.

These two characters and stories complement each other in a way that made it very hard to put the book down.

I also really enjoyed how nicely the plant descriptions and botanical terms are naturally written into the narrative. The details help bring an already interesting book to life and enhance the many lush settings.

*The Botanist's Daughter* is an intriguing story about the strength of women who, for their own reasons, are

willing to travel halfway across the world and end up with the same goal. It's also a family mystery that slowly reveals its secrets, just like a blooming flower.

I found myself totally immersed in everything that happened to these characters, and went through so many emotions.

This book was a delightful treat and has found a well-deserved spot on my Keeper Shelf.

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### **Hannah Stenton says**

I loved this book, and couldn't put it down until I finished it. It is a dual timeline, one with a woman (Elizabeth) in Victorian England, who has promised her father on his deathbed that she will travel to Chile and bring back the Devil's Trumpet flower. The other is Anna, living in present-day Sydney, who discovers a book and a box when renovating the home her grandmother left her. Throughout the book we discover the connection between the two. Nunn weaves the story together perfectly, transporting us to England, Chile and Sydney easily, and leaving us hanging on wanting to keep turning the pages.

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### **Sonia Donelli says**

<http://www.esmeraldaviaggielibri.it/r...>

Recensione di Margherita – La figlia del mercante di fiori di Kayte Nunn pubblicato il 3 gennaio da Newton Compton Editori.

Cornovaglia, anno 1887. Elizabeth Trebithick è figlia di un famoso botanico che viaggia in tutto il mondo per trovare e portare con sé esemplari di piante insolite ed esotiche. Con la sua scomparsa, Elisabeth decide di partire per portare a termine l'ultima spedizione organizzata dal padre per cercare una pianta molto rara e velenosa, usata impropriamente può causare la morte ma utilizzata nel modo corretto può curare qualsiasi male. Il viaggio in mare che l'aspetterà per raggiungere la sua meta, il Cile, non sarà privo di difficoltà e ostacoli.

Australia, presente. Anna Jenkins vive a Sidney e si occupa di giardinaggio, una passione trasmessa da sua nonna Gussie purtroppo venuta a mancare. Anna eredita la casa dei nonni ma il dolore è talmente grande da trascurarla, però dentro di sé sente che è giunto il momento di tornare in quel luogo fonte di momenti felici. Durante la ristrutturazione della casa trova, all'interno di un muro, un diario impolverato ed una grande scatola in metallo dall'aspetto molto antico che contiene un album da disegno con illustrazioni botaniche, una vecchia foto, un fiore essiccato e un sacchetto con dei semi. Tra le tante specie illustrate nell'album Anna ne riconosce solo alcune ma una in particolare attira la sua attenzione, non riesce però ad identificare a quale esemplare appartengono quei semi e per scoprirlo decide di seminarli. Oltre dalle illustrazioni, è particolarmente incuriosita anche da quell'antico diario le cui pagine raccontano le vicissitudini di una giovane donna in fuga. Chi sarà? E da chi o cosa fuggiva? Queste e tante altre domande senza risposta affollano la mente di Anna decisa a far chiarezza sugli oggetti ritrovati. Nella sua ricerca non sarà sola, un gruppo di esperti botanici l'aiuteranno a far luce sul proprietario dell'album e sugli esemplari di piante così perfettamente illustrati. Per lei, questo, sarà l'inizio di una grande avventura.

“«Guarda qui, più da vicino», disse l’operaio indicando il muro più lontano dalla finestra, ora sgombro. Anna obbedì e poi lo vide: un buco, più o meno all’altezza della vita... e quando lei si voltò verso di lui, le porse un taccuino malconcio. Era tutto grigio, ricoperto da polvere e fili di ragnatela. «Grazie», disse lei prendendo il diario e soffiò sulla superficie, sollevando una nuvola di polvere. Con un dito ripulì la copertina del taccuino, che era blu scuro. L’aprì con grande cura e vide una grafia fitta e filiforme che ricopriva le pagine ingiallite.”

L’autrice Kayte Nunn si è rivelata un’inaspettata sorpresa! Inizialmente ho sempre un po’ di esitazione ad iniziare una nuova lettura soprattutto se è di un’autrice a me sconosciuta, ma questa volta tutti i miei dubbi sono stati spazzati via solo dopo poche pagine. Ho trovato tutti gli elementi che adoro trovare in una storia: mistero, amore, segreti, salti temporali, epoche e luoghi lontani. La figlia del mercante di fiori è un romanzo intenso, emozionante, coinvolgente e ricco di colpi di scena tanto da lasciarti incollata alle sue pagine per ore senza smettere di leggere. Ne resterete affascinate! Quello che affronterete è un viaggio tra passato e presente, la storia di Elizabeth ambientata in Cornovaglia nel 1887 si intreccerà con quella di Anna, una ragazza dei giorni nostri. Conosciamo meglio le due protagoniste.

Anna è una ragazza riflessiva che ama la botanica e per la prima volta nella sua vita decide di non lasciare il controllo delle proprie decisioni a chi le sta accanto ma di scegliere da sola cosa è meglio per sé. Ha sempre vissuto la sua vita senza viverla davvero, senza uscire dai confini tracciati ma il ritrovamento del diario e della scatola scatenerà qualcosa in lei che la porterà a superare i propri timori.

Elizabeth è una ragazza di 25 anni, coraggiosa, determinata e testarda, fin da ragazzina ha dimostrato una particolare attitudine verso lo studio della botanica. Non ha esitato ad accettare le ultime volontà del padre e di partire al suo posto per una pericolosa spedizione alla ricerca di una pianta tanto bramata dai ricercatori di piante. Neanche i pareri contrari del resto della famiglia l’hanno scoraggiata dalla sua missione perché per lei non è solo un viaggio, è l’occasione che aspettava per soddisfare la sua voglia di avventura e libertà. Finalmente potrà vedere il mondo con i suoi occhi.

Apparentemente Anna ed Elizabeth sembrano molto diverse tra loro, mentre Elizabeth combatte per sentirsi libera dalle restrizioni della sua società, Anna, invece, non esce dalla sua zona sicura. Nonostante questo ho trovato molti punti affini che le lega. Lascero a voi scoprire quali. Dopo le prime rivelazioni, la storia si farà sempre più interessante, i misteri si susseguiranno uno dopo l’altro in attesa di essere finalmente svelati. Tutto ruota attorno agli oggetti ritrovati, dalla scatola in metallo fino al diario appartenuto ad una donna vissuta anni prima. L’autrice con le accurate descrizioni dei luoghi in cui avvengono le varie vicende del passato e del presente, dei vari personaggi e del mondo della botanica permette al lettore di immergersi completamente nella storia rendendo tutto più reale. Tra i tanti luoghi che fanno da sfondo c’è la Cornovaglia con le sue coste rocciose selvagge ed incontaminate, le spiagge dorate, i prati verde smeraldo e un mare dall’acqua cristallina. Solo leggendo queste descrizioni ho desiderato partire all’istante per poterla visitare. Non solo, descrive dettagliatamente luoghi esotici come il Cile, in cui sono ambientate le vicende di Elizabeth.

Anche se ho trovato la storia stupenda, l’epilogo mi ha lasciata un po’ perplessa, mi è sembrato di non essere arrivata ad una vera conclusione, come se l’autrice ci avesse lasciato in sospeso in attesa di raccontarci altro. Ma questo ovviamente non ha alterato in alcun modo il mio giudizio strapositivo su questa storia.

Sono contenta di aver seguito il mio istinto e di aver letto questo bellissimo romanzo, spero che la Newton Compton pubblichi i prossimi libri di Kayte Nunn perché merita davvero tanto.

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## **Carolyn says**

I absolutely loved The Botanist's Daughter by Kayte Nunn.

A dual timeline ~ two botanists; centuries apart.

Set from within The Botanical Gardens, Sydney to Cornwall in England to as far away as Chile in South America.

You'll visit interesting places ...

Hidden secrets are held within a metal box which changes a person's life.

Breathtakingly beautiful ...

It is the flowers, the gardens and the botany which will entice you as you weave your way through the stories.

Find out the connection between the two sun-dials in the gardens; and a certain lily which holds a secret as well as what's contained in the metal box.

The art of sketching, flowers and turning them into watercolour to make certain flowers come to life play an important role in the book.

I particularly liked hearing about the rhodendron flower ~ one of my favourite flowers also from the Blue Mountains of Australia.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, The Botanist's Daughter by Kayte Nunn and highly recommend.

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them".

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## **Jennifer (JC-S) says**

‘Here in this garden was the proof: while some lives ended, the rest of the world marched relentlessly on.’

There are two strands to the story within this novel. The first, set in the 1880s features Elizabeth Trebithick in Cornwall. Elizabeth's father was seeking a rare plant in South America. The plant is considered to have miraculous powers, and after her father dies, Elizabeth takes up his quest. Elizabeth, with her servant Daisy, travels from Cornwall to Valparaiso in Chile. The second strand of the story starts in Sydney in 2017. Anna Jenkins's grandmother has recently died, and Anna is renovating the house which her grandmother left to her. As walls and shelves are removed, Anna discovers first a notebook and then a mysterious metal box containing a sketchbook of watercolours, a photograph, and a small bag of seeds. Anna is a botanist and is intrigued by her find.

Two different journeys in two separate centuries. We accompany Elizabeth as she travels from Cornwall to Valparaiso, while she looks for this wondrous plant, and as she finds a new life. We accompany Anna as she

travels to London and then to Cornwall in search of answers. Who was responsible for the watercolours, and how did they end up in her grandmother's home? And, as we accompany these two women on their separate journeys, we see some of the best and worst of human nature on display.

'She had much to find out and she must tread carefully.'

I found this novel intriguing. For me, working out the connections between the two stories became less important as I turned the pages. I wanted to know what happened to Elizabeth, and I wanted Anna to find happiness. While some aspects of the story are sad, the presentation of the story held my attention from beginning to end.

'There are always flowers for those that want to see them.'

Note: My thanks to NetGalley and Hachette Australia for providing me with a free electronic copy of this book for review purposes.

Jennifer Cameron-Smith

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## **Ashleigh says**

Review to come during blog tour during August.

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## **Theresa Smith Writes says**

The Botanist's Daughter by Kayte Nunn takes the reader back to a time and place where the interest in botanical medicine was gaining momentum. Plant based medicines, particularly the history of, is an interest of mine and when this novel popped up on my radar, I knew it was one I needed to read, especially once I found out about the author's own passionate interest in botany. Usually, when an author has a passionate interest in the topic they are writing on, you can be assured you're in for a good show. I highly recommend checking out Kayte's Pinterest board on The Botanist's Daughter. You can really see where she got much of her inspiration from and there's a definite magic associated with seeing the novel come to life when you're viewing all of the images she's saved. Spending time looking at that was a great way to finish off this novel.

The Botanist's Daughter is a time-slip narrative, or dual perspective if you prefer, where one character in the present day discovers a link to a person from the past and we become privy to two stories moving along within different eras. I absolutely loved this novel, both eras, both women, both journeys. It just hit the right note for me from the very beginning. The magic of finding a box with treasures from the past drew me in and held me captive. And the seeds! What a find, and how incredible that under Anna's guiding green thumb, she got them to sprout after lying dormant for so long. It was this botanical aspect of the story that interested me the most. The quest for cuttings and seeds and the power of plants that stretches across the ages. More so though, the knowledge about the power of plants, because it's one thing to have a plant that has useful properties, but it's entirely another to understand its uses. Kayte tapped into this with intricate detail throughout this novel, highlighting how botanical art was also a source of information about the plants depicted, their origins and uses, the dangers and benefits. There was a lot more to this stream of art than pictures of pretty flowers.

“Anna was once again reminded of how extraordinarily long some plants had been around for, blooming, dying and blooming again across the centuries, seeds scattered on the wind, seedlings divided and shared, sold and replanted in foreign soil.”

The setting of Chile was vividly engaging and I applaud Kayte for how beautifully rendered this was. Likewise, Cornwall and Sydney both popped off the page, but it was the sections set in Chile that really swept me away. Our two leading ladies were a treat to spend time with, but if I'm honest, I preferred Anna, our modern day heroine to Elizabeth, our 19th century botanist. There was an arrogance to Elizabeth that proved to be her undoing. Throughout the story, her deception over her new friends and family unsettled me and it came as no surprise that this cost her dearly in the end. I lamented the fact that she hadn't trusted in those around her when the true consequences of her stealth were realised. How easily things could have differed if she had confided in her husband and ensured he understood the danger that was lurking over them. But even she underestimated the greed associated with being the first botanist to bring a new and powerful plant out into the world. She miscalculated the urgency, and I think, to a certain degree, also felt guilty about the wrongness of what she was doing, which was essentially stealing a dangerous plant that she had obtained via means that were deceptive. My sense of foreboding that had been plaguing me was sadly realised but in a far more terrible way than I could have possibly envisaged. I did love Daisy, her loyal maid, who proved herself to be the most honourable and trustworthy of companions. Her steadfast promise to Elizabeth was honoured across the generations and I appreciated the way this linked the past with the present for Anna and her mother and sister. The way this story from the past played out was evidence of Kayte's mastery over her own novel. She didn't shy away from pulling the rug out from under us. It was a bold move, but it took *The Botanist's Daughter* from being a good novel to a truly great one.

*The Botanist's Daughter* is Kayte Nunn's first novel of historical fiction and I have to say, she's done a marvellous job of it. The novel moves along briskly with a full cast of characters, all doing their bit to tie the threads of this story together. We are treated to a spark of romance between Anna and a lovely gentleman who appears as the perfect match for her, but I do like how Kayte kept the focus on the family mystery and Anna's journey to redefine her own life, rather than distracting from the main storyline with this romantic inkling. All in all, *The Botanist's Daughter* is a novel that I recommend highly to lovers of historical fiction and all things botanical. The sumptuous cover with its beautiful images of birds and flowers extending into the inner jacket is equally as delightful as the story that it's wrapped around.

Thanks is extended to Hachette Australia for providing me with a copy of *The Botanist's Daughter* for review.

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## **Helen says**

5\* <https://greatreadsandtealeaves.blogspot...>

*The Botanist's Daughter* is a remarkable read that I thoroughly enjoyed. From beginning to end I was enthralled as this book ticked all the boxes in what I look for in a good, well rounded story. A well documented dual narrative (always tricky to pull off) that was so well executed with past and present stories sublimely linked, you will fall under its spell from the moment the box of treasures is discovered in the opening pages.



“... as Anna looked at it she had a sudden premonition, a feeling of apprehension. Exactly what had she discovered? What changes would this bring to her carefully ordered life?”

Chapters are presented from the alternating POV of our two female leads - two journeys, separated by time but bound together through adventuring into the unknown. They may have been different women from different centuries but both were most certainly on a journey of discovery. Elizabeth would travel from Cornwall, England to Valparaiso, Chile in an attempt to honour her father's dying wish. Anna would travel from Sydney to Cornwall to find answers to her box of discoveries. Both women and their stories will engage you in their determination to overcome obstacles. The characters and indeed both tales, truly complement each other to provide a captivating tale (or two!) I humorously appreciated the 'Australianisms', they brought a smile to my face! With references from the 'old dunny' (toilet) to ....

“...skipping ahead of them over the cracks in the pavement, eager for the Redskins and Violet Crumbles that were stacked on the shop's narrow shelves.”

For Kayte's Nunn's first attempt at historical fiction, she has done an amazing job. The secondary characters have depth, the plot never drags, the scenic descriptions - particularly of Chile - are vivid and the way all the puzzle pieces are finally brought together in the end is most satisfying. There is some romance in both timelines, but I appreciate how the author stayed true to the heart of the novel, that being, one of a family mystery.

I have no hesitation in highly recommending *The Botanist's Daughter* to lovers of historical fiction, dual narratives and an enticing mystery (this has a real Kate Morton flavour). One would be hard pressed not to pick up this stunning book with a cover which in itself is so very inviting. From the locked box containing a diary detailing a long ago journey, to two strong and compelling females imbued with curiosity and courage to set out on journeys of discovery across the globe must surely intrigue the best of us.

“She was, of course, there to fulfil the promise she had made him, the promise that had kept her from collapsing with uncontrollable grief when he died, and had sustained her throughout the long and terrible voyage.”

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the publisher and provided through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The quoted material may have changed in the final release

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## Claire says

This was a thoroughly enjoyable read that I've been looking forward to since seeing the cover. This is overall a mystery, an adventure and a romance that takes place in two different centuries following two different women who are both searching for something. The mystery starts in 2017 when Anna finds a box hidden in a wall and takes it upon herself to uncover the mystery of it. Running parallel is an adventure in 1887 in Chile where Elizabeth from Cornwall has travelled to search for a flower. I was very much intrigued with both stories, though really liked Elizabeth's adventure slightly more and waiting expectantly for each of her chapters. There is a love story in both centuries, though one happens and the other is just starting to bloom. Very enjoyable

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## Joanna Nell says

A beautifully polished novel following the lives of two very different women, born into very different times and worlds. Exquisitely researched and lush in botanical detail, the story laces mystery and suspense with beautifully drawn characters and an unexpected twist that kept the narrative fresh and anything but predictable.

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## Rambling Reviews says

Hum.

Well, it wasn't great.

On the plus side, the mystery and concept were both reasonably interesting.

On the negative side, it read like a bad high school creative writing task. Ridiculous descriptive language. Unbearably clichéd. Beautiful protagonists. (The particular irony being that the beautiful protagonist from the 1800s wants to be more than a lovely wife to a man she barely knows, but we know so little about her beyond the beauty the author continuously shoved down our throats... and she ends up married, quickly, to a man she barely knows.) The book can't decide if it's feminist or not. So many characters exist just to propel the story; they're lucky if they're even cardboard cutouts of people! It's spectacularly tone deaf and lacking in self-awareness.

It also can't decide if it's a mystery novel, chick lit, or a straight up romance novel, so the tone is odd.

There's large passages of expository dialogue that seriously made me cringe.

It also ended on an unexpected cliffhanger(ish) moment. I won't be returning for the obvious sequel.

Would not recommend. I would return it to Big W if I could.

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## Sanchia says

If you're a fan of Kate Morton and dual-timeline stories, this will not disappoint. Set in Cornwall, Chile and Australia from the 19th century to today, protagonists Elizabeth and Anna quickly drew me in and had me romping through the pages at a great pace to find out how and why Elizabeth's father failed to find a miracle plant in Chile and what the drawings mean in the hidden box that Anna finds decades later.

The writing style and storytelling depth is a departure from Nunn's first two books and shows a maturity in her novel writing, and a passion and skill for dual-timeline storytelling. The attention to detail and accuracy in terms of historical context, geographical knowledge and, of course, botany indicate the amount of research that must have gone into this exciting novel.

A terrific read and one that will be my go-to gift for friends for quite some time.

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## Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

\*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

The Botanist's Daughter signals quite the turning point for the author of this fascinating historical fiction, crossed with dual narrative tale. It is Kayte Nunn's first venture into the world of historical fiction. It gives me great pleasure to see Kayte Nunn, an author I have been a fan of since her debut novel, take flight and soar with a new genre. The Botanist's Daughter is a victory piece for Nunn and it has secured a spot in my most treasured reads of 2018.

In this beautifully realised novel, two women of the same profession, the field of botany, are in a race to find the key to a powerful flower. These two women are separated by time. In Victorian England, Elizabeth is quite the trailblazer. She leads the charge, continuing in her late father's endless search to source a precious plant that has the power to heal beyond words. It is a hazardous quest, which involves a lengthy voyage from Cornwall, to Chile. Elizabeth will stop at nothing to fulfil her father's legacy, but it is a journey marked by much danger. Another pioneering botanist who appears over a century after Elizabeth is Anna, based in Sydney in the present day. When her grandmother passes away, Anna discovers a mysterious metal box among her belongings. Inside she finds a cache of items. These include a book of watercolour sketches, a photograph and a bag of seeds. For Anna this sets forth a pathway to self discovery and an unearthing of a century old tale.

The Botanist's Daughter is quite the showpiece. It enthralled me from the opening, through to the final parting words. The Botanist's Daughter is a book that ticked all the boxes for me and I was sad when I came to the close of this wonderful set piece. Kayte Nunn is an author I have followed and supported since her first novel came out in 2016. Since whispers of this novel first surfaced, I have been eagerly waiting its release and I'm so pleased to give this book my full recommendation.

It is always interesting to see where an idea for a book first germinates. In The Botanist's Daughter's case, the author has a personal interest in botany and it truly does reflect through the passionate storytelling of Kayte Nunn. An afternoon spent in a favourite locale, Sydney's botanical gardens and the connection the author made to a sundial, spurred on this story idea. A visit followed to Kew Gardens and The Botanist's Daughter was born. It is a magnificent tale at that!

The Botanist's Daughter is structured in the form of dual time frame narrative, weaving into and out of chapters situated in 1800's Cornwall and Chile, along with Sydney in the year 2017. There is a rich sense of place that pervades The Botanist's Daughter. I particularly enjoyed the Chile based scenes, as this is a locale I have not read about before. The transitions of time and place were handled with poise. I found that I was equally enamoured by the past and the present day storylines. Time slip narratives are often hard to pull off, but Kayte Nunn doesn't shy away from the challenge of a dual narrative approach. What culminates is an engaging story, rooted firmly in both the past and the present, with illuminating connections.

Kayte Nunn's leading protagonists, Elizabeth in the past and Anna in the present, are both intriguing. Nunn outlines both these women extremely well and I found I enjoyed each woman's personal story equally. It is hard to achieve this balance in dual time frame narrative, but Nunn achieves success in this area of her new novel. Elizabeth is a determined, single-minded and fearless woman. She definitely is ahead of her time. I enjoyed following Elizabeth's incredible journey to fulfil her late father's great quest. This was one of many reasons why I remained glued to the pages of this novel. Supporting Elizabeth is her loyal servant Daisy. I

found Daisy endearing and the unsung heroine of the tale. Anna, the present day protagonist, was a layered character. I enjoyed the process of unpacking Anna's personal issues.

A spellbinding and timeless family mystery awaits the reader when they choose to take a journey with the cast of *The Botanist's Daughter*. This aspect of the novel was perfectly paced. The placement of the metal box of treasures discovered by Anna in the present day was an excellent catalyst to commence the intrigue side of this novel. For me, this was my favourite part of the novel. The focus on botany and the search for the miraculous plant that holds the key to potentially saving the lives of many was completely enlightening. Nunn deserves full praise for her research efforts in this area. When the reader reaches the conclusion of *The Botanist's Daughter*, a gentle line of new love and hope closes off this meaningful journey.

Whilst I am trying to tread a careful line in gushing too much over this book, I must also add that *The Botanist's Daughter* is a book that is beautiful both on the outside and on the inside. The breathtaking cover design which sprawls to the inside cover of this book and it is just so exquisite, I adored the birds and flowers. I must recommend you purchase a hard copy of this book if you have a weakness for gorgeous covers!

It is with no hesitation at all that I heartily recommend this novel to all. If you take great delight in well presented historical fiction, *The Botanist's Daughter* is yours for the taking!

*The Botanist's Daughter* by Kayte Nunn was published on 31st July 2018 by Hachette Australia.

\*I wish to thank Hachette Australia for providing me with a free copy of this book for review purposes.

*The Botanist's Daughter*, is book #87 of the Australian Women Writers Challenge

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## Helen says

What a story this one is but I picked the worst time to start reading it I was so busy and didn't get a lot of reading time in but when the book wasn't in my hands my mind never stopped thinking about it and trying to rush back to it, fabulous story, beautifully written, I loved it, I wanted to get to then end but I didn't want it to finish, this is one that I suggest do not miss reading.

This story spans from Victorian England Cornwall when a young woman named Elizabeth daughter of botanist John Trebithick takes up where her father sadly couldn't finish and that is searching for a very rare and dangerous plant in Chile, unknown for woman in this era to do so but stubborn Elizabeth with her maid Daisy, set off on a dangerous journey that will bring many changes to this gifted painter's life, with danger and other people after the plant there is danger lurking close by and a secret to uncover.

Years on 2017 and Anna Jenkins who is a horticulturist, (this love of plants she got from her grandmother) is now renovating her beloved late grandmother's home in Sydney when she discovers a gorgeous tin which has treasures packed inside, and here starts another journey but this time to discover the true owners of the paintings and the truth about the seeds that have been found. Anna uncovers a lot on her journey to Cornwall England more family and the truth about the journey to Australia by a woman and a child back in 1888.

This is a story that pulled me in from page one, the characters come to life on the pages, I loved Anna and

Elizabeth and getting to know them was wonderful, the settings so very beautiful and the story threaded through two time lines had me devouring the words, and the flowers that are described had me thinking about my Nana's garden with some of them, this the first of MS Nunn's books I have read but it won't be the last, this one ticks all of the boxes for a book that is engrossing and so very enjoyable and one that I highly recommend, fabulous story, truly don't miss this one.

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